

Closing tax loopholes for the financial sector, making them pay their fair share of taxes, and I would support imposing a financial speculation tax, could generate more than \$150 billion in Federal tax revenue. And what could be more fair to those who cause such harm to the American people?

Something is really out of kilter in America, and it's not the State budgets. It's the balance of power in our political system. Everywhere you go, Big Money and Wall Street win, and the American people pay.

Mr. Speaker, I just say to the American people, think about who's hurt our Republic—and it's not the American working people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Rev. Raymond Bowman, Spruce Street Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

O God of freedom, referred to by many names, embraced in different ways by the many different people who make up this great Republic.

As leaders and elected officials, center us on the awesome work of serving a people who have been identified as the citizenry of a free Nation, the United States of America.

Grant us a powerful sense of Your presence so that we are not confused about Who really leads and inspires a free people.

Help us to honor the aspirations of a free Nation, so that our private ideologies do not distort public passions.

May we in our own little ways provide a concerted effort to represent well our unique, diverse, but united constituencies.

Enable us to see that our best expressions of leadership come not from bold assumptions, but out of humble submissions. Submit us, I pray, to the lofty aspirations that continue to give shape to our wonderful country.

We thank You for giving us another opportunity to make real our claim of God bless America.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REV. RAYMOND BOWMAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. COOPER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is an honor to recognize the Reverend Raymond Bowman today, who just gave the opening prayer. Seldom has Congress been more in need of prayer than we are today.

Rev. Bowman was raised in Chicago. He came to Nashville, Tennessee, to attend American Baptist College. Thankfully, he is the pastor of Spruce Street Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, sometimes referred to as the mother church of African American churches in our area. He is also the president of the IMF, the Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship.

He and his wife, Nancy, are here with us today, and we would like to welcome them to our Nation's capital.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ENDING \$1 BILLION OF FAILED SPENDING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the efforts of Representative JEB HENSARLING for introducing H.R. 836, the Emergency Homeowner Relief Program Termination Act.

This bill prevents \$1 billion from being spent on this failed program. In the current administration's budget, it is estimated that the program has a 98 percent subsidy rate. That means for every dollar spent, taxpayers lose 98 cents. This is bad for taxpayers and bad for American families.

Making this reform possible is the South Carolina Federation of Repub-

lican Women, which has inspired the Republican revolution in South Carolina since 1961. This is the 50th anniversary of the election of the first Republican legislator in the 20th century, the late Charlie Borneau of Richland County. In 2010, the transformation was completed of all statewide elected officials being Republicans for the first time since 1876.

Under the guidance of leaders such as our Governor, Nikki Haley of Lexington, with Jocelyn Staigar, Susan Dickson, Nikki Trawick, Carla Hardee, Kim Wellman, Betty Poe, Lisa Manini Sox, Grace Rentiers, Irby Shultz, Katrina Shealy, and Eaddy Roe Willard, this organization will continue to make a difference promoting limited government and expanded freedom.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HOUSING, KEY TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today we will consider proposals to cut foreclosure prevention programs during one of the worst housing downturns in our Nation's history. A safe and affordable home is central to the American Dream and central to a strong neighborhood and a thriving economy.

In Rhode Island, that dream has been fading because our State has been extremely hard hit by the national foreclosure crisis. Last year alone, there were more than 4,700 foreclosures in Rhode Island; and according to Housing Works Rhode Island, one in every 10 mortgaged homeowners was in foreclosure or serious delinquency by the end of last year. The fact of the matter is that we still face a serious housing crisis all across this country.

Today, my friends on the other side of the aisle will cut mortgage relief and refinance programs that help the very homeowners who need them most. That will leave homeowners with no other choice than to turn to those who created these unfair and predatory mortgages that got us into this mess in the first place.

At a time when our economy is beginning to recover, we should not be cutting from these programs because the housing sector is key to our economic recovery. These programs deserve increased funding because a successful housing sector will be one of the major factors that will pull us out of this recession.

IN HONOR OF LEONARD "BUD" LOMELL

(Mr. RUNYAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Sergeant Leonard "Bud" Lomell.

Through his courageous actions on D-day as an Army Ranger, Bud earned a Distinguished Service Cross. Bud's brave service was crucial to the success of D-day and left an impressive imprint on our Nation's history that was documented in two best-selling books: Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation" and Stephen E. Ambrose's "The Victors: Eisenhower and His Boys: The Men of World War II."

Sergeant Lomell passed away on March 1, 2011, at the age of 91, leaving his family and our country with a proud legacy of honor and service. I am proud and humbled to have been able to call this incredible American a constituent. I ask you today to please rise with me in honor of Sergeant Leonard "Bud" Lomell.

TERMINATING MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAMS

(Ms. BASS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, California was ground zero of the foreclosure crisis. At one point, 40 percent of all foreclosures nationwide were concentrated in the State of California. Today in California, nearly one in eight homes is in foreclosure. By far the majority of my constituents who walk through the door have received foreclosure notices or are on the brink of foreclosure. They have been shunned by the banks and have turned to my office and the Federal Government for help.

Mr. Speaker, the two programs on the Republican chopping block this week haven't even been fully implemented: the Emergency Mortgage Relief Program and the FHA Refinance Program. The Emergency Relief Program provides no-interest loans to those who lost their jobs, which is the main reason homeowners fall behind in their mortgage payments.

Not only does this response from the majority ignore the basic economic principle that the housing sector is a key component to economic recovery; it also comes without any alternative to reduce foreclosures.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support struggling homeowners and vote against H.R. 830 and H.R. 836.

THE BORDER WAR CONTINUES ON THE SOUTHERN FRONT

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on December 14, Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was murdered in Arizona by bandits crossing into the United States. Border agents approached armed invaders carrying AK-47s. A shootout occurred where Terry was shot and killed. Now, there is evidence that Terry and possibly other agents fired first to defend themselves by firing bean bags at the outlaws before

using live ammo. Documents indicate that the agents were required to fire first with non-lethal bean bags before using live ammo. Allegations also show the AK-47 used by the bandits to kill Terry was a gun the ATF had allowed a smuggler to buy in an apparent sting operation and take to Mexico.

The idea that when armed bandits invade the United States our border agents must fire bean bags is nonsense and no way to protect them or the Nation. You don't take bean bags to a gunfight. And if the guns the bandits used came from our government in some type of undercover sting operation, that is sickening and reprehensible.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1210

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

GAS PRICES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. That's the Dallas Morning News front page. And do you know what they're saying? Gas prices are going up for all drivers and it's time for the gallon of gas to come down or stop. You know, it has risen nearly a buck since last September. That's why I'm calling on the IRS to stand up for small business by increasing the gas mileage rate that they can deduct. The IRS increased the optional mileage rate during spiking gas prices in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina and in 2008. Gas prices are going upward, and there are no signs that the pain at the pump will subside anytime soon.

Taxpayers today, especially small businesses struggling to stay afloat, want, need, and deserve rates that reflect the current cost of travel. They need those deductions.

We need to drill for oil. Call the White House at 202-456-1414 and tell them about it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the gentleman from Texas that remarks in debate are properly addressed to the Chair.

H.R. 1 IS NOT THE ANSWER

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Ask Americans if we should reduce government spend-

ing and most say yes. I agree. But let's dig a little deeper. Let's make the kind of choices that families make.

H.R. 1 that the Republicans have offered in cuts will result in 218,000 fewer children getting the proven benefits of a preschool program called Head Start. H.R. 1, at the same time, does nothing to cut the \$4 billion that we are giving every year to the Big Oil companies. If we want to talk about oil prices, our taxpayers give \$4 billion to the wealthiest corporations in the history of the world.

We are cutting about \$5.7 billion from Pell Grants in H.R. 1. I voted "no." What are we doing about billionaires who are getting tax breaks to leave to their heirs? Eleven billion dollars a year for the wealthiest Americans and their heirs.

We have to make the kind of choices that help middle class Americans. We can tighten our belt, but we don't have to do it on the backs of the middle class.

TAKING A STAND FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. With a \$14 trillion national debt, a \$1.65 trillion deficit this year alone, yesterday the United States Senate voted to reject the House effort to fund the government for the rest of the year. The Senate majority leader even took to the floor and called our \$61 billion in savings "mean spirited," "reckless," and "irresponsible." He even defended Federal funding for the Cowboy Poetry Festival, apparently in his own State.

You know, I learned a long time ago out here in Washington that sometimes things don't change in Washington, D.C., until they have to. I think we have to pick a fight. If House Republicans want to win this battle, we need to take a stand for the budget cuts and the policy changes enshrined in H.R. 1—that's \$61 billion in savings this year, defunding ObamaCare, and defunding Planned Parenthood of America.

It's time to take a stand for fiscal responsibility and reform. We have to say, This far and no farther. For the sake of our children and our grandchildren, we need to make a stand for the American people. And make no mistake about it: If we make this fight, we can win this fight, because the American people are on our side.

THE PARTY OF NO PLAN

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the Party of No has officially become the Party of No Plan. Every week under GOP control has been another week with no plan to create jobs. This is not a game.